

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, beginning on page 4, line 26 and ending on page 5, line 2, as follows:

In particular, the instant disclosure pertains to a method for purifying an oligonucleotide that comprises providing an oligonucleotide containing a phosphate protecting group attached to a substrate, wherein the phosphate protecting group is 2-cyanoethyl[ phosphate]; contacting the oligonucleotide with diethylamine to cleave the phosphate protecting groups from the oligonucleotide without detaching the oligonucleotide from the substrate; isolating the oligonucleotide attached to the substrate from the cleaved phosphate protecting groups; and contacting the oligonucleotide attached to the substrate with ammonium hydroxide to cleave the oligonucleotide from the substrate.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, beginning on page 7, line 27 and ending on page 8, line 12, as follows:

After completion of oligonucleotide synthesis using any available method such as phosphite triester and H-phosphonate chemistries, the substrate-bound oligonucleotide is treated with a reagent to selectively remove the phosphate protecting groups from the oligonucleotide backbone. The selection of reagent and conditions thereof is generally dependent on the ability of the reagent to selectively cleave the phosphate protecting groups in such a manner that the oligonucleotide still remains attached to the substrate. Any compound or enzyme that can achieve [a ]this effect falls within the scope of the